SONDY POPE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

REP. POPE COLUMN: GIVING THANKS TO OUR VETERANS

On November 11, we celebrate Veterans Day. Veterans Day has long stood as a day to honor our brave service men and women who fought to protect our country in times of war.

Veterans Day has been a national holiday since 1954, replacing Armistice Day, which had been recognized since the end of World War I to celebrate the formal armistice with Germany. Over 61 years, the United States has played host to thousands of honorable veterans. Today, there are 21.8 million American war veterans.

While veterans fought valiantly overseas, returning home presented a number of unique challenges. Veterans require medical care, financial assistance, and institutional support to continue living like any other citizen. Thankfully, the federal government has enacted a number of laws and programs that help returning veterans – such as the Veterans and Americans with Disabilities Act, the G.I. Bill, the Veterans Employment Initiative, and more.

Our state legislators are continuously working to improve the lives of our veterans as well. This legislative session alone, the State Assembly has proposed bills to address issues concerning returning service members, create a Veteran Education Awareness Week, establish a Wisconsin Veterans Employment Initiative, and more.

In our communities, there is much that we can do to thank our veterans. I ask that each of every one of you – to go out of your way to reach out to veterans and thank them for their service to our country. The freedoms we enjoy every day are due to the sacrifices they were willing to make.

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